

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 AF-08 ARA-10 EA-09
NEA-10 COME-00 LAB-04 TRSE-00 L-03 FRB-01 OMB-01
ITC-01 SP-02 USIA-15 AGRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04 CIEP-02 CEA-01 ABF-01 /120 W
----- 130342 /14

R 142147Z DEC 76
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1677
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

UNCLAS USUN 6151

VIENNA FOR UNIDO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AORG, UN
SUBJECT: UN FIFTH COMMITTEE: SUMMARY OF 48TH MEETING,
DECEMBER 13, 1976

1. SUMMARY. AT ITS 48TH MEETING DECEMBER 13, 1976, FIFTH COMMITTEE CONTINUED ITS DISCUSSION OF THE JOINT INSPECTION UNIT. THE CO-SPONSORS PRESENTED A NEW FORMULATION FOR ARTICLE 20 AND FINAL VOTE ON THE DRAFT RESOLUTION WAS POSTPONED. DISCUSSION CONTINUED ON REVISED BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR UNCTAD WITH STATEMENTS BY AFGHANISTAN, EGYPT, JAPAN, NETHERLANDS, AND SRI LANKA. END SUMMARY.

2. JOINT INSPECTION UNIT. (A/C.5/31/L.31)

(A) US, (NORBURY) STATING THAT DRAFT RESOLUTION WAS A CAREFULLY WORKED OUT COMPROMISE, URGED THAT THE MATTER NOT BE POSTPONED FOR A YEAR. DENMARK, (WILLUMSEN) WHILE NOT ENTIRELY OPPOSED TO A YEAR'S POSTPONEMENT IN ORDER TO PERMIT FURTHER STUDY OF THE DRAFT STATUTE, FAVORABLY VIEWED ITS CONTENT, THOUGH IT WAS NOT CLEAR HOW GA PRESIDENT WOULD REVIEW QUALIFICATIONS OF CANDIDATES. UGANDA JOINED AS CO-SPONSOR. CONTROLLER DEBATIN SUGGESTED THAT ARTICLE 20 OF THE DRAFT JIU STATUTE REPRESENTED A DEPARTURE FROM RULES 3.1, 3.4, 3.5, AND 3.6 OF THE UN FINANCIAL REGULATIONS AND,
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TO A CERTAIN EXTENT, DEROGATED THE AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY-

GENERAL IN THE BUDGET PROCESS. UPPER VOLTA (OUEDRAOGO) ASKED CO-SPONSORS FOR CLARIFICATION ON ARTICLE 20. PHILIPPINES, (GARRIDO) SAID PROVISIONS SHOULD CONFORM TO THE FINANCIAL RULES OF THE UN THEREFORE IT COULD NOT ACCEPT ARTICLE 20. BELGIUM (PIRSON) AND FRANCE (NAUDY) POINTED OUT THAT ARTICLE 20 WAS LARGELY COPIED FROM THE AC DRAFT STATUTE.

(B) GHANA (SEKYI) ANNOUNCED THAT CO-SPONSORS WERE WILLING TO ACCEPT SOVIET AMENDMENTS TO ARTS. 11 AND 5 BUT COULD NOT AGREE TO AMENDMENT KEEPING NUMBERS OF INSPECTORS AT EIGHT, WHEREUPON USSR WITHDREW THIS AMENDMENT. CO-SPONSORS ALSO ACCEPTED PHILIPPINE AMENDMENT TO ART 11. (A/C.5/31/L.32). CONTROLLER SUGGESTED RE-WORDING OF ART. 20 TO PROVIDE THAT JIU BUDGET ESTIMATES WOULD BE ESTABLISHED BY SYG RATHER THAN JIU ITSELF. AFTER ACABQ CHAIRMAN MSELLE AND SEVERAL DELS. INTERVENED IN SUPPORT OF CONTROLLER, DISCUSSION ON THE ITEM WAS RECESSED TO PERMIT CONSULTATION.

(C) WHEN DISCUSSION OF JIU WAS RESUMED, GHANA ANNOUNCED CO-SPONSORS HAD AGREED ON NEW FORMULATION OF ARTICLE 20 WHICH THEY THOUGHT WOULD SATISFY CRITICS. IT PROVIDED THAT THE JIU BUDGET ESTIMATES WOULD BE ESTABLISHED BY THE SYG ON THE BASIS OF JIU PROPOSALS AND THAT THESE PROPOSALS WOULD BE ATTACHED BY THE SYG TO HIS OWN JIU BUDGET SUBMISSION TO THE GA. THIS PROVOKED ANOTHER BURST OF CRITICISM FROM THE CONTROLLER, UPPER VOLTA, AND UK (STUART) NONE OF WHOM SAW ANY IMPROVEMENT IN THE NEW FORMULATION. UPPER VOLTA FEARED A BAD PRECEDENT WOULD BE SET ON QUESTION OF FINANCIAL AUTONOMY OF UN BODIES. GHANA, AUSTRALIA (MCCREDIE) AND US DEFENDED FORMULA AND IMPORTANCE OF ASSURING JIU INDEPENDENCE. ALGERIA PRESSED FOR A VOTE. SEVERAL DELS., INCLUDING IVORY COAST (OUTTARA), UK, IRAN (TALIEH), AND UPPER VOLTA SAID THEY WOULD VOTE NO IN SEPARATE VOTE ON ART. 20. CANADA (HUNTER) SAID IT WOULD VOTE AGAINST STATUTE AS A WHOLE. AUSTRIA (MUCK) WOULD VOTE IN FAVOR; DENMARK WOULD ABSTAIN. IN VIEW OF LATE HOUR, CHAIRMAN POSTPONED VOTE TILL LATER MEETING.

3. REVISED ESTIMATES UNCTAD. AFGHANISTAN (RASOULI) STATED THAT IT COULD NOT SUPPORT THE ACABQ CUTS WHICH LIMIT
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UNCTAD ACTIVITIES; DID SUPPORT SYG REPORT. EGYPT (ABOUL GHEIT) NOTING THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF NIEO IS POSSIBLE ONLY IF UNCTAD REMAINED ACTIVE, EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT ACABQ COULD NOT ACCEPT THE SYG REPORT. FURTHER EXPRESSED HOPE THAT UNCTAD SECRETARIAT WOULD ACCORD EQUITABLE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION TO LEAST REPRESENTED REGIONS. OPPOSED LIMITING CONFERENCE SERVICES BASED ON ANY MANAGEMENT, ADMINISTRATIVE, OR FINANCIAL DECISION WHICH LIMITS THE RIGHT OF MEMBERS TO

HOLD MEETINGS. JAPAN SAID ACABQ HAD BEEN LENIENT; THOUGHT RESOURCES APPROVED, ESPECIALLY FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, WERE SUFFICIENT. SUPPORTED ACABQ RECOMMENDATION TO HAVE COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES LOOK INTO THE QUESTION OF THE PROPRIETY OF LIMITED ACCESS MEETINGS. CAUTIONED AGAINST THE DILUTION OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S AUTHORITY AS THE UN CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER. NETHERLANDS (RHODIUS) SUPPORTED THE ACABQ REPORT AS A REASONABLE BALANCE AND STATED THAT STUDY OF LIMITED ACCESS MEETINGS BY COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES WAS A GOOD IDEA. SRI LANKA (BRECKENRIDGE) SUGGESTED ADDITION OF FOUR POSTS REQUESTED BY SYG BUT NOT APPROVED BY ACABQ IN THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM. ALSO SUGGESTED PROBLEM OF LIMITED ACCESS MEETINGS SHOULD BE REFERRED BACK TO UNCTAD RATHER THAN COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976USUNN06151
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760461-0100
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761243/aaaabkyp.tel
Line Count: 131
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: schwenja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAY 2004 by hattaycs>; APPROVED <19 AUG 2004 by schwenja>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UN FIFTH COMMITTEE: SUMMARY OF 48TH MEETING, DECEMBER 13, 1976
TAGS: AORG, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006